

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6203
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
REHABILITATION OF BEGGARS
Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that poverty and unemployment are the leading causes for the prevalence of beggary;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether 60 percent of the beggars are abled bodied while 70 per cent of them have history of addiction and psychiatric illness;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to start psychological rehabilitation for them in every State; and
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal for setting up/improving beggar homes throughout the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

- (a) & (b): The prevalence of Beggary can be attributed to various reasons including poverty and unemployment. The States are responsible for taking necessary preventive and rehabilitative steps on the issue of Beggary. As per available information, 20 States and 2 Union Territories have enacted their own anti-beggary legislation or adopted legislation enacted by other States/UTs.
- (c): As per information furnished by Registrar General of India (RGI), there are 4,13,670 beggars, vagrants etc. in the country as per Census 2011 out of which 70,506 are disabled beggars. Out of these, 5982 persons suffer from mental retardation and 5588 persons suffer from mental illness.
- (d) & (e): Presently, there is no Scheme of the Central Government for Beggary.